

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS.  
DIXIE BIGGER

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Dixie Bigger, who left us on October 20th of this year. She will be greatly missed by all of her family and friends, her community, and her union, United Auto Workers Local 1237.

Mrs. Bigger was born on August 22, 1940 in Oquawka, Illinois, to Harold Wilson and Velma Mea Henshaw. She grew up in Oquawka and attended G&O High School. In 1956, she married Richard "Dick" Bigger, who sadly passed away in July of 2009. Mrs. Bigger worked at Champion Spark Plug in Burlington, Iowa for 33 years, and was a dedicated member of U.A.W. Local 1237 and the Champion Council. Mrs. Bigger was also civically engaged as a Henderson County Precinct Committeewoman. After retiring, she became the recording secretary for the U.A.W. Local 1237 Retiree Chapter, a position she maintained until May of 2016. Mrs. Bigger was blessed with three children, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mrs. Bigger's contributions to our community, and my condolences are with her loved ones at this difficult time.

HONORING CHERYL SEIDNER

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cheryl Seidner, who will be honored as Humboldt County Citizen of the Year on October 27, 2017, an award she richly deserves.

Cheryl Seidner's contributions to the Wiyot Tribe and advocacy for American Indian rights are exemplary. As Chairwoman of the Wiyot Tribe from 1996–2008, Ms. Seidner was essential to the establishment of the Table Bluff Reservation, now home to permanent housing for tribal members and a community center. She was instrumental to the repatriation of Indian Island in Humboldt Bay, the site of a terrible massacre in 1860 that nearly exterminated the Wiyot Tribe. And, as an author and poet, Ms. Seidner also organized an annual vigil commemorating this massacre and brought back the Wiyot young women's coming-of-age ceremony.

Cheryl Seidner has served on the executive committee of the National Congress of American Indians and the Northern California Indian Development Council. She worked as a mentor for students during her 28 years in the Humboldt State University Educational Opportunity Program and was an advisor to the American Indian Alliance, which supports American Indian students' academic efforts. In 2008, Ms. Seidner was granted an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Humboldt State University for her activism on behalf of American Indians at the local, state and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing deep appreciation for Cheryl Seidner's extraordinary leadership and devotion to American Indian activism and achievement and congratulating her on decades of service to the North Coast's Indian communities.

## C-TPAT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3551, the C-TPAT Reauthorization Act of 2017. This legislation reauthorizes the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Program (C-TPAT).

The C-TPAT program works to improve United States border security and the security of our international supply partners by providing a voluntary public-private sector partnership focused on bolstering trade while keeping Americans safe. Since its creation in 2001, this program has allowed trade partners and American businesses to opt into increased security measures and make corrective actions in order to streamline their entry into our country. The program simplifies the process of suppliers bringing products into our country and allows our country to broaden security trade measures without discouraging trade with those who do not opt in.

In the United States, more than 41 million jobs depend on international trade, and my home state of Georgia boasts the largest single-terminal container facility of its kind in North America, based in Savannah. This industry supports over 360,000 jobs statewide and is vitally important in our local and national economy.

The C-TPAT program is good for trade and promotes the safety of our citizens, and I urge my fellow members to support H.R. 3551 to reauthorize funding for this program.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT FIRST  
CLASS JEREMIAH W. JOHNSON

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant First Class Jeremiah "JW" Wayne Johnson, who gave his life while serving our nation on October 4, 2017, in Ouallam, Niger. SFC Johnson was one of four servicemen killed in the hostile attack in southwest Niger.

A Member of the 3rd Special Forces Group, SFC Johnson proudly served our Nation for ten years as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Specialist (74D). At home, he enjoyed fixing and riding motorcycles, forging and customizing knives, and most importantly, spending time with his family.

During his tenure in the Army, SFC Johnson received numerous awards and commendations, including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service

Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal. Posthumously, SFC Johnson was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

SFC Johnson was laid to rest in North Carolina on October 16, 2017. His motorcade was met by hundreds of community members, including many uniformed veterans and active duty soldiers, who gathered to honor his life and pay their respects.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of SFC Jeremiah "JW" Wayne Johnson and also in offering our condolences and prayers to his wife Crystal, their two daughters, Addie and Elisa, and to his many family members, friends and comrades as they mourn the loss of this brave hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. NEIL  
CAPRETTO

**HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Neil Capretto, Medical Director of Gateway Rehabilitation, for his 30 years of service to the Beaver County community.

Dr. Capretto graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and went on to serve as chief resident in psychiatry at St. Francis General Hospital before settling in Western Pennsylvania.

As an expert in the study of addiction, he has written scholarly articles and served as a medical commentator and consultant to both local and national media networks.

Today, he serves as an innovator in the field of pain management and a leader in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

Not only is Dr. Capretto incredibly knowledgeable, but he continues to display exemplary patience and kindness, even amidst his battle with cancer.

I'd like to thank him for his 30 years of service and let him and his family know that we are praying for speedy recovery in this difficult time. God bless.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY RE-  
SPONSE BY DETECTING INCOM-  
ING CONTRABAND WITH TECH-  
NOLOGY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 2142, the International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT) Act, to aid U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers with narcotics screenings.

In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) determined that fentanyl and synthetic opioids took the lives of 64,070 people, a 21 percent increase from the previous year. In my home state, the Georgia

Department of Public Health found that the number of deaths due to opioid overdoses is now nearly equal to the deaths from motor vehicle crashes. In the 4th District alone, over 200 lives were tragically lost due to this horrible epidemic. As a country, we can no longer afford inaction on an issue that has turned into an epidemic under our watch.

H.R. 2142 requires the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to increase the amount of chemical screenings to prevent the smuggling of fentanyl, opioids, and other narcotics into the country, either through mailing services or through a carrier. The bill also mandates that sufficient funds and employees, including scientists, are available to ensure thorough screenings and resources available at all operational hours. By giving our CBP officers a better chance of detecting these illicit drugs at the border, we may be able to save the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of Americans. Only with our action can we, as members of Congress, start to make a meaningful difference in this fight that is ravaging our country.

This is why I have strongly favored more funding to prevent the spread of the opioid crisis in the past, and will continue to fight for more resources that will end the opioid addiction crisis. For this reason, I am pleased to support H.R. 2142.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHILLIP  
V. SANCHEZ

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of U.S. Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez, who served under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford in Honduras and Colombia, was a distinguished and influential leader serving the San Joaquin Valley. He was one of the first Latinos to hold public office and was known for his charitable nature, diplomatic character, and perseverance. The San Joaquin Valley will be forever indebted to Ambassador Sanchez for his tireless efforts on behalf of the community.

Phillip V. Sanchez was born on July 28, 1929. He was raised in Pinedale, California. At just six years old he would join his mother in the fields to pick fruit and cotton. His mother heavily influenced him to pursue an education. Mr. Sanchez graduated from Clovis High School in 1946 and continued his education at Fresno State in political science. While in college, Mr. Sanchez joined the Army National Guard and advanced to the rank of colonel in the Army Reserve. He had over 40 years of military service.

In the 1960s, he began his career in public service as the Chief Administrative Officer of Fresno County. Ambassador Sanchez became a board member for Clovis Unified School District before being appointed by Governor Ronald Reagan to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the California State University and Colleges Board of Trustees. He was also a trustee of the National Hispanic University. In the 1970s, Mr. Sanchez was appointed by President Nixon as the Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

After the Office of Economic Opportunity was dismantled in 1973, Mr. Sanchez was appointed Ambassador to Honduras. While in Honduras, he and wife Juanita adopted a child and began to help Americans adopt orphans. They had a love of children and later founded an orphanage in Mexico that they oversaw for 25 years. Under President Ford, Mr. Sanchez was transferred to Ambassador of Colombia.

Later in his life, Ambassador Sanchez worked as publisher of the New York Tribune and Noticias del Mundo, and was president of CAUSA USA, a faith-based anti-communist organization. After 9/11, Mr. Sanchez decided to return to the Fresno area to retire. He was honored at the 2008 Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala and in 2010 was named Chicano Alumni Legacy Builder by Fresno State. Mr. Sanchez made a positive difference in many lives and inspired people to follow their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of U.S. Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez, whose generosity and unending dedication to the community will be greatly missed. Mr. Sanchez's memory will live on through the contributions he made to our Valley and throughout the world. It is my honor to join his family and many friends in celebrating his impactful life, which will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF  
SENATOR DENNIS J. JACOBS

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Dennis "Denny" J. Jacobs of East Moline, Illinois on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Denny was born in Rock Island County, Illinois on November 8, 1937 to parents Oral "Jake" and Shirley Jacobs. Denny graduated from United Township High School in 1955 and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Ellen DuffY, shortly after. He is a graduate of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Denny and Mary Ellen raised six children.

Following in his father's footsteps, Denny dedicated nearly 30 years of his life to public service. He was elected Mayor of East Moline in 1973, a position he held for 14 years. In 1986 Denny was appointed to serve as Senator for Illinois' 36th District. He served his community in this capacity until his retirement in 2004. Denny not only made a deep impact on his district, but also on the State of Illinois. One of his biggest legislative accomplishments was expanding 9-1-1 service statewide. Denny worked tirelessly to advocate for his community and to bring investment to this region.

I join with his family and friends in congratulating him on this special occasion and wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.

IN MEMORY OF ATTORNEY  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT BOWERS

**HON. AL LAWSON, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a veteran, educator,

civic leader, dedicated citizen and a great American, Attorney Theodore Roosevelt Bowers, who served his community, state and country well.

Attorney Bowers was raised in Bascom, Florida. After graduating from Rosenwald High School, he attended Florida A&M University (FAMU) in 1950. He was drafted into the United States Army but volunteered to serve in the U.S. Air Force instead from 1951 to 1954. After being honorably discharged in 1955, Attorney Bowers returned to FAMU and completed his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1958. He later obtained a Bachelor of Laws in 1961 from Howard University Law School.

Attorney Bowers started his legal career clerking at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. In 1962, he was admitted to the Florida Bar and remained a member for more than fifty years. He became the first African American to practice law in Bay County. Since that time, he has engaged in the private practice of law in the 1st, 2nd, and 14th Judicial Circuits of Florida. From 1962 to 1964, Bowers was an instructor of Political Science at FAMU. He served as a cooperating attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund for five years (1965-1970). In standing tall for equality, he worked to integrate the schools so Black children in Bay County and surrounding counties would have access to equal education opportunities. His legal work was also instrumental in integrating the Bay Medical Maternity Ward and several local businesses in Bay County. His goal was always to "change the system and try to make America what it should be." Attorney Bowers received many opportunities to practice law in Washington, DC however, he was committed to the cause of Civil Rights and felt his services were better served at home in Northwest Florida. With this decision, he paid a high price both financially and personally including several attempts at bombing his car after leaving civil rights meetings in Marianna, Florida in the 1960's.

He served on numerous boards and commissions including the Board of Trustees for Gulf Coast Community College (1973-77) and the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women (1979-1982). He was also elected and served as the first Black member of the Bay County School Board.

In June 2009, he was honored by the Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association as one of Florida's First Black Lawyers. In June 2012, the Florida Bar honored him for fifty years of practicing law in Florida.

Attorney Bowers was recommended to become a U.S. Attorney by President Jimmy Carter but his recommendation was blocked by the power structure in Florida. And he was instrumental in President Nixon withdrawing the name of Federal Judge G. Harold Carswell, a southern, strict constructionist conservative as a nominee to the Supreme Court.

Throughout the ensuing decades of his life and career he fashioned a powerful place in the public discourse on race and influenced the thinking of generations of young attorneys. Driven by an enormous heart and keen intellect, Attorney Bowers worked his entire life to "level the playing field" for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, with an unwavering dedication, strong values, and an avid pursuit of civil and human rights, Attorney Bowers made a tremendous impact in his community, the state of